

## WORLD SCIENCE FORUM

November 20–23., 2019

Lyndre Nel, a Ph.D. student from South Africa and with the Institute of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management at Szent István University (SZIU) (Gödöllő), had the privilege of attending the prestigious World Science Forum (WSF) held at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest between 20 to 23 November 2019.



*Figure 1.* Lyndre Nel (left) with other students attending the World Science Forum, Budapest, 2019  
 1. ábra Lyndre Nel (bal oldalon) hallgatótársakkal a World Science Forum-on, Budapest, 2019

The main focus of the Forum was ‘Science, Ethics and Responsibility’, which provided an opportunity to learn from and engage world-renown scientists, international political and scientific leaders, and authority figures. Over the Forum’s four days, over 900 leading scientists, science diplomats, political decision-makers, representatives of industry and civil society, students, and the media expressed their views on the new challenges facing science in the 21st century.

Driven by the need for a forum for discussion between the scientific community and society, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in partnership with the UNESCO, International Council for Science (ISC) and AAAS established the WSF series, taking place biennially in Budapest or a partner-country. This Forum aims to foster and maintain dialogue between the scientific community, society, policy-makers, and industry on an international platform.

On the first day, opening addresses were given by Hungarian President János Áder, Prof. László Lovász (MTA), Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle (UNESCO), and Prof. Batmanathan Reddy (ISC) to commence the start of the WSF 2019. Throughout the Forum, many well-known scientific figures presented talks and sessions on a variety of topics.

Prof. Thierry Courvoisier, President of the European Academies' Science Advisory Council, presented a talk in a special session on merging values across science and diplomacy: interactions and counteractions between scientists and diplomats on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Dr. József Popp, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of SZIU, presented a talk for the Sustainable Agriculture session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Forum. Dr. France Córdova, director of the National Science Foundation, spoke on the ethics of science

funding also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Dr. Magdalena Skipper, the Chief Editor of Nature, gave a talk on ethics in science communication on the 4<sup>th</sup> day.

Various other sessions were held on ethical challenges and limits in science, international science cooperation and diplomacy, sustainable agriculture, human right to science, ethics of artificial intelligence, and science communication ethics. The Forum ended with the adoption of the Declaration of the 9th World Science Forum, which focusses on science for global well-being, strengthening global standards in research integrity, fulfilment of academic freedom and the human right to science, and the responsibility and ethics of communicating science.

South Africa, as a WSF partner-country, will host the next World Science Forum in 2021 in Cape Town.

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